

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 20 and 23 were allowed, and claims 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21 and 24 were objected to because of objected to wording in claims 3, 9, 14 and 17. The objected to claims were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the claim objections.

The drawings were objected to as failing to show two reference characters described in the specification as pointed out by the Examiner, and appropriate correction was required. The specification was objected to because the cross reference to the parent application should be updated to include the patent number and because of a typographical error appearing on page 2. The Examiner required amendment of the abstract to more accurately reflect the subject matter being claimed in this divisional application.

The Examiner also reconsidered and withdrew the election requirement made in the first Office Action.

In accordance with this response, the specification has been amended to overcome the several objections noted by the Examiner and to update the status of the parent application. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct the reference characters noted by the Examiner as not being shown in the drawings and, as amended, all the reference characters mentioned in the specification are shown

in the drawings. In view of this amendment to the specification, no correction of the drawings is needed. A new, more descriptive abstract has been added.

In response to the claim objections, claims 3 and 9 have been amended and claims 14 and 17 have been canceled. With respect to claim 3, the phrase "an detection axis" has been corrected to --a detection axis--. With respect to claim 9, the phrase "axis passing the center" has been changed to --axis passing through the center-- and the mistyping "ont he" has been corrected to --on the--. With regard to the remaining objections to claims 3 and 9, applicants respectfully traverse the objections and request withdrawal thereof in light of the following comments.

The Examiner noted that in claims 3 and 9, the first occurrence of each phrase beginning "X-axis" is proceeded by "an" whereas the first occurrence of each expression beginning with "Y-axis" is proceeded by "a" and to maintain consistency, the Examiner suggested that the first occurrence of each "X axis" be proceeded by "a" rather than "an". In English usage, "a" is commonly used before a consonant sound and "an" is used before a vowel sound. When in doubt, the prevailing view is that either "a" or "an" is used depending on which is easier to pronounce. Thus it is commonplace to refer to "a union" and "an hour" as these are easier to pronounce than "an union" and "a hour". This usage of "a" and "an" is consistent

throughout the claims and is the same as the usage in U.S. Patent No. 6,640,454 which issued on the parent application of which this application is a division. Therefore withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Bruce L. Adams
Reg. No. 25,386

50 Broadway - 31st Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 809-3700

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Debra Buonincontri

Name

Debra Buonincontri

Signature

September 7, 2004

Date